



## **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE TO BELGIUM AND MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE SIERRA LEONE DIASPORA COMMUNITY BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR SAMUEL TAMBA MUSA, SIERRA LEONE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE EUROPEAN UNION IN MARKING THE 59<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

#### **Dear Compatriots in the Diaspora,**

I want to extend my sincere and hearty appreciation to you all for the resilience you have shown during this period of a global pandemic caused by COVID-19. Today, no country in the world is immune from this deadly virus. I have a strong feeling that you and your families are staying home safe and well. I am aware of the challenges that you might be facing especially in this part of the world.

His Excellency, President Dr Julius Maada Bio has provided great and responsible leadership to addressing the outbreak. The government and partners are fighting extremely hard to ward off the COVID-19 from spreading in communities. May the Good Lord continue to bless the President and provide him with more wisdom, good health and long life.

I decided to reach out to our Sierra Leonean compatriots in the diaspora as we celebrate our **59<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary today since 27<sup>th</sup> April 1961**. I have met and engaged with a good number of you, both in your countries of residence as well as in my office at the Embassy in Brussels. My engagements with you have been fruitful and useful to both my capacity as your Ambassador and for the development of Sierra Leone.

At the State Opening of Parliament on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 in the Well of Parliament, His Excellency, Dr Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone informed both Parliament and the nation that he is ***committed to transforming the economy, creating the ecosystem for investment and private sector growth, investing in human capital development, and making wide-ranging institutional and governance reforms.***

Let me highlight some of the key areas where the government has made significant progress over the past 2 years:

1. Introduction and implementation of the Free Quality Education initiative launched on 20 August 2018.

2. The fight against corruption and state capture.
3. Strengthening of the health sector by building more health care facilities across the country.
4. The increased pay package for healthcare providers, teachers and university lecturers.
5. The setting up of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) to bring to book former state officials who misappropriated over hundreds of billions of Leones and millions of Dollars.

Despite the economic challenges of the past coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government continues to ensure a stable economic environment.

My fellow Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora, I am aware of your generous contributions towards the fight against the pandemic through the remittances you send back home. Some diaspora organisations have provided funds, food and non-food items like buckets and sanitation items for communities. I want, on my behalf and the Government of Sierra Leone to applaud you for your strong show of exemplary patriotism in the fight against the pandemic.

My compatriots, as we mark this year's Independence Anniversary, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones blessed Independence Anniversary. I look forward to meeting with you to continue our collaborative efforts in making Sierra Leone a better place for all of us.

Ramadan Karim!

**GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS SIERRA LEONE**

**Ambassador SAMUEL T. MUSA**